compulsory licensing, Government use and national security. The existing law effectively balances and calibrates intellectual property protection with public health, national security and public interest concerns.

Financial support to widows and divorcees from Wakf Board

*280. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed that Wakf Boards should offer financial support to women from minority community in distress, especially widows and divorcees;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has taken up the matter with Wakf Boards and the National Commission for Minorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) No such directive of the Supreme Court has come to the notice of the Government. The National Commission for Women has not taken up the matter with the National Commission for Minorities. However, the National Commission for Women had convened a meeting wth Chairmen of State Wakf Boards recently to discuss, among other things, maintenance related problems of Muslim women. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Wakf Boards of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tamil Nadu.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-Sri Lankan agreement

1745. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Sri Lanka propose to workout a comprehensive economic partnership agreement;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the details of the current impediments coming in the way of free flow of trade which are proposed to be addressed?